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probably alluding to a large *Rath*, a little N.E. of the village. In the union it is united to the adjoining parish of Skirry, the small church just noticed serving for both; indeed so few of the inhabitants belong to the established church that it could also serve for two other parishes! Here is a meeting-house belonging to Dissenters, it however presents nothing worthy of notice.

Our walk had by this time so much improved our appetites, that the chief object was to get breakfast as soon as possible; we therefore entered a small inn, the sign of which had a most promising appearance for persons in our present state. It was the figure of a master free-mason in the robes of office, but instead of the compass, square, and such like emblems, being also on it, there was painted, loaves, rolls, baps, &c.; figures which I assure you courteous reader had now more allurements for us than any other hieroglyphics whatsoever.

At breakfast, each article was excellent; perhaps the flavour was heightened by the exquisite *sauce*, and we now resolved to visit the ruins of Skerry church, distant about two miles, to which place, as we proposed to return to Broughshane, our landlord offered to accompany us, an offer which we gladly embraced. The fineness of the day rendered our walk truly delightful, and our companion was very sociable. He took not a little pains to impress upon us a favourable opinion of the country, and of every object of which we took notice. The district through which we were passing, though inclining to wildness, he described as exceeding fertile, and on our expressing some doubts of several tracts which seemed "disinherited by nature," he gravely asserted that even at Slerniss the soil

was so luxuriant, that cheese was made which for richness equalled any made in Ireland!

We now expected to have heard of the land "flowing with milk and honey," but the discourse was broken off by the numerous groups of people passing by to public worship—for reader I am now obliged to disclose that it was Sunday—which disclosure also informs you that we had considerably exceeded the sabbath days journeys of "holy writ," yet reader as you may have sometime in your life went a *step* too far, perhaps, even on Sunday, I trust you will not lose your candour in the present instance.

(To be Continued.)

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

PORTRAITS OF MATRIMONY.

Part 2d.

PHILANDER is the son of a farmer, so wealthy that his address was usually distinguished by the addition of *Esq.* He was, from his birth, designed by his father for some one of the learned professions: and as the law promised the greatest emolument, with the least hazard of the want of success, it was ultimately chosen. In this ambiguous study, notorious for informing the understanding, and refining the taste, and at the same time, steeling the heart, and destroying the sensibility, Philander made considerable proficiency. His understanding was originally by no means above mediocrity; but in qualifying himself for his destined profession, he was persevering to an extreme: and as his father's wealth gave him every external advantage, with the assistance of a handsome person, and engaging address, he soon became eminent as an attorney. His progress in the acquisition of wealth, exceeded even

his father's most sanguine expectations. He soon became the proprietor of houses in the city of Dublin, and of a considerable estate in the county where he resided. His property was managed with united prudence and economy. The increase of wealth never lessened his attention to business, and between the emoluments of office, and the advance in the value of his estate, his father had the satisfaction, before he died, of seeing his son possessed of a fortune, of which his whole property would not have paid the interest.

Thus respectable, both in professional reputation, and independent property, Philander wanted nothing but the society of some distinguished female, to fill up the measure of his happiness. Of the platonic affection he was perfectly ignorant, and he despised, the romantic in love. He was by no means, however, insensible to beauty; or, in his own opinion, incapable of feeling what he considered rational love; and as the article of fortune was to him of little importance, he, with a generosity, from *law-habits* but little to be expected, determined to marry the first lady he could find, whose family and accomplishments could satisfy his scrutinizing judgment.

In this disposition of mind, fortune brought him acquainted with Rosetta, the eldest daughter of an officer who had died in the American war, and left a wife, with six children, to the scanty support of a sixty-pounds annuity. Rosetta was a lady of very considerable beauty, refined taste, and elegant manners, but she inherited from her mother, a sense of personal worth, and family importance, that caused her not only to despise every one she considered her inferior, but rendered her sarcastically severe upon all her acquaintances. This, however, by no means, lessened her in the esti-

mation of Philander. The poignancy of her wit gave additional effect to the charms of her person; he considered it both as an evidence and privilege of her family superiority; and wishing rather to have his *blood ennobled*, than his *pocket enriched*, he made an earnest tender of his heart, hand, and fortune.

Rosetta, although she despised all his relations, and had even occasionally indulged her satirical humour upon himself, was too much alive to her own interest, to reject the generous and advantageous offer.

Philander's person and manners were such as no woman could despise; and his large property presented Rosetta with such a fascinating prospect of figuring amongst her former acquaintances, and displaying her personal and mental charms, that, after a suitable settlement, she consented to make him the happy man. They were accordingly married; and in their conduct towards each other, their children, and acquaintances, they exhibit the following portrait:—

Philander and Rosetta do not appear deficient in harmony or affection, but they have, to a considerable degree, exchanged places. Philander, though otherwise firm and dignified in his manners, is ungracefully submissive to his wife. She is indeed a woman of too much sense of propriety, to exert her authority where it might be galling, productive of disaffection, or tend to render herself or husband glaringly ridiculous. Her authoritative influence is exerted with a considerable degree of delicacy; and in the majority of instances tend to what is right. But still, the husband, instead of *presiding*, is only *second* in command over his own household; he forms all his domestic resolutions, and regulates his conduct by hints, insinuations, and suggestions from

his wife.—She, indeed, sometimes goes the length not only to *direct*, but even to *reverse* his determinations: and I have known her not only refuse to admit as a visitor, a gentleman whom he expressed his intention of inviting, but even cause him to *break off* an engagement he had actually made to visit a friend at a considerable distance. On such occasions, however, she has the address to preserve both her own and her husband's temper. There is nothing harsh or irritating in her manner. She never proceeds to direct contradictions, but apparently with the greatest good-nature, addresses him by some endearing epithet, and expresses her astonishment, that he could think of a thing so inconvenient, foolish, or impossible; laughs at his simplicity, and advises him to think no more of it. Such is Philander's deference for the family, education, and good sense of Rosetta, that he never thinks of persevering in any thing in opposition to her will. Indeed, to do her justice, she is cautious not to push matters to an extremity. She is far from courting opportunities of contradicting, or differing from her husband. On the contrary, there are subjects of extreme delicacy, or in which Philander's feelings are deeply interested, upon which she will disguise or give up her sentiments, rather than provoke opposition, or excite uneasiness. This is evident in her conduct to Philander's relations. At the same time she will scarcely deign to speak to others of the same rank and education, and while their persons and manners afford her, with any of her own intimate friends, in the absence of her husband, an inexhaustible source of satirical amusement, she is exceedingly attentive and respectful to them in Philander's presence. Indeed,

she appears, all things considered, to have the warmest affection for her husband. Her superior birth gives her, she thinks, the right to govern and direct him; but this she manages with such delicacy, with such ability and address, that however obvious to others it is to him scarcely perceptible, and not in the least galling: and as he has the highest sense of her worth and accomplishments, he submits without scruple to her direction, so that there exists between them more harmony and affection than is to be found in the majority of families.

As Philander is in the receipt of a very considerable income, and as Rosetta is a lady of the most refined taste and manners, we may naturally expect to find them in the habit of seeing much company. Their house indeed, is the resort of all the fashionable people in the neighbourhood, and Rosetta has frequently the satisfaction of seeing herself copied in the economy both of the toilet and the table. It is however, only with people of distinction that she wishes to associate; and, although from business, convenience or the hospitality of her husband, she is occasionally obliged to see people of inferior importance, she never fails when separated from them, and among her intimate friends, to repay herself richly in satirical amusement for her condescending attentions. Indeed, this is the most unamiable trait in this lady's character. The brilliancy of her wit is very often employed in the unfriendly office of illuminating the dark parts of her neighbour's character and conduct, scarcely even an intimate friend can escape her satirical inquisition. When returned from a party, the whole entertainment is reviewed, and every thing weighed with the greatest exactness, in the

balance of approbation and ridicule, (giving in general a considerable preponderancy to the latter scale,) and when a party is given by herself, the dress, conduct, and conversation of every one of her guests is submitted to her fiery ordeal for perhaps several days. No person without the circle of her relations, or very intimate friends can be supposed to know any thing of taste or fashion; and it is surprising, by detailing in a humorous way the sayings of individuals, unconnected with the conversations from which they originated, and with a pointed reference to parts of their public conduct, what ridicule she can contrive to throw upon a whole character. Philander, thro' a partiality to every thing belonging to Rosetta, and the flattering incense, these depreciations of rivals in importance offers to his pride, appears in general to enjoy very highly this talent in his wife. His good-nature is, indeed, at times provoked by Rosetta's severity, to stand forth in defence of the absent sufferer, but like a little water cast upon a large flame, the defence only serves to encrease the evil it was intended to palliate; Rosetta is thus induced to redouble her attacks. Philander soothed by her flattery, and silenced by her wit, laughs at his discomfiture, and seems as much as herself to enjoy her victory.

The ridiculous light, in which Philander is accustomed to see the greater number of his acquaintances placed by Rosetta, leads him insensibly to set a high value upon himself. This appears in that silent pride that consists not so much in what a man *does*, as in what he is anxious to let you know he studiously *avoids*. He has indeed, too much sense to be vain, and too much taste to be haughtily self-important,

but still, a conscious consequence gives a particular complexion to every action which tells without Philander's knowledge, he believes himself by no means the last character in society.

This pride, though not very offensive to others, is very unfortunate for its possessor. It frequently tortures him with envy, or stings him with a degree of mortification, which all his natural and professional powers of disguise cannot prevent others from observing. The artillery of Rosetta's sarcastic humour, levelled at the object of his envy, or dejection can indeed, generally dissipate the gloom, and has put to rout the aspiring foes of Philander's quiet. But, as his uneasiness arises from the prosperity or pretensions of his neighbours, such is their occasional success and arrogance, that one enemy is scarcely put to flight until another comes in view.

Both Philander and Rosetta are exceedingly attentive to their guests whilst present, and there is scarcely any family in which, for the time, a visitor will find himself more happy. Even the satirical observations upon the absent, which are not unfrequently made in the presence of strangers, are occasionally very amusing. It is, however, that kind of amusement, which by no means endears to us its author. We laugh with her at the moment, and fancy ourselves partaking in the general enjoyment, but at the same time, the wounded feelings of pity and humanity bleed for the absent sufferer. We cannot avoid fearing, that such will in turn be our own fate; and our sense of propriety is hurt, by that want of female delicacy and tenderness which appears in such sarcastic severity. An occasional visitor sees the most evident marks of cordiality and af-

fection between Philander and Rosetta. but although he is flattered by their attentions, and entertained by their conversation, and although he cannot but be occasionally delighted with the sallies of Rosetta's wit and gaiety, he is dissatisfied with the inferior place occupied by the husband, the almost malignant severity of the wife, and the unhappy opinion of their own importance, entertained by them both. He of course usually departs from their hospitable society, with a feeling compounded of admiration, envy, indignation, and pity.

The manners of the children are, as usual, nearly a transcript of those of their parents. The family superiority assumed by the mother would, it might be supposed, lead the children to undervalue their father, and treat him with little respect. But Rosetta, although she thinks herself entitled to rule her husband, has no idea of lessening his consequence, either in the eyes of others, or of her children. She joins in enforcing all his injunctions, and not unfrequently refers the children to him, with requests so trifling, that the reference can have no other view, than to impress their minds with an idea of dependence upon their father, and submission to his will. The children, however, are evidently most attached to their mother, and have acquired more of her manner than of that of their father. Her family-consequence, sprightly wit, and elegant manners, together with the contempt she expresses for many of her acquaintances, lead the children to believe she is little less than a mirror, in which may be seen whatsoever is worthy of praise or imitation. They, therefore, naturally suppose, that to copy her manners, and follow her direction, is the nearest way to arrive at eminence in society, and perfection in conduct.

Rosetta's system of education is far from being bad. She is seldom either foolishly indulgent, or intemperately severe. She cherishes in the minds of her children the finest feelings, and strongest sense of honour. They are stimulated to obedience and good conduct, by the most highly-coloured and alluring pictures of future eminence in society; whilst their faults are reprov'd by sarcastic comparisons with the lowest characters amongst their acquaintances. These descriptions are so strong, the pictures are so lively, and her sarcasms frequently so severe, that for the delicate feelings of Rosetta's children, it would be difficult to find out a more effectual mode of correction.

Philander, as in every other thing, not only gives his wife her own way with the children, but enters into all her views, and assists her in the execution of every measure. There is not, therefore, any contention between the parents, and of course no want of harmony amongst the children. They are all, however, highly tainted with their mother's lofty spirit; and most of them inherit also her sarcastic disposition. They not only seek to associate with none but distinguished families, but feel an evident reluctance in conversing or holding the slightest intercourse with persons of any other condition. Their answers on such occasions are so brief, and their communications so sparing, that one might suppose, they dreaded some advantage would be taken of their words; whilst their contemptuous looks, and averted attention, seem to testify, they consider themselves in company with an inferior order of beings.

It is not, however, upon persons of this description, that they are most apt to exert their satirical abilities. These are below their notice. They

may, indeed, occasionally amuse themselves with the blundering phraseology, and awkward civility of such untutored sons of nature; but against those who wish to rival themselves in etiquette and fashion, their satire is chiefly directed. Of such individuals, the persons, manners, dress, and family-modes of living, are all indifferently the subject of sarcastic observations. If any of these be elegant and fashionable, there is some deficiency in other things, that appears very inconsistent. Their appearance, at such or such a place, was particularly ridiculous. In short, in every one of Rosetta's children, who are naturally smart, and otherwise amiable, there appears the strongest disposition to elevate themselves, by sinking or depreciating their neighbours. To this unworthy practice, they are not only tutored by the example of their mother, but even encouraged by her assistance. All the brilliancy of her wit and humour is frequently employed to gratify the ill-nature of her envious children.

Philander, half convinced by the misrepresentations of his wife and children, gratified by the family superiority he appears to have attained, and delighted with the abilities of persons so dear to him, seems, on such occasions, perfectly complacent and happy. At one time, he smiles with more than approbation at the brilliant witticisms; at another, by some information, he furnishes a shade for the family-piece of ridicule, and during every period, his silent sanction encourages and gives force to the practice. Alas! how weak and superficial is the mind of man! His best qualities, by a weak excess, often lead him into the most unworthy conduct.

The law of nature has prescribed to husband and wife separate and distinct spheres; from due atten-

tion to which, the chief advantage of matrimony are to be derived. The husband is invested with a certain necessary degree of authority—an authority, however, which generosity and tenderness must ever restrain him from conspicuously exercising. His prerogative entitles him, not *arbitrarily to command*, but *rationaly to direct*. When this prerogative is stretched too far, we must invariably consider it as an act of tyranny—but where it appears to be totally yielded up, we as invariably consider it unmanly submission. Nature never intended that a wife should be *tamely servile*, but has undoubtedly taught her to be *unassuming and respectful*.—In order, the husband should be first, the wife second. When this appears not to be the case, the order of nature is inverted, and the matrimonial picture of course deformed. In the instance under consideration, Philander's equanimity and good nature, would render him happy in himself, and ornamental to society, were they not, by his wife's domineering disposition, converted into passive servility, and inexcusable negligence. Whilst Rosetta's acute understanding, brilliant wit, and fine taste, would render her the first of womankind, did not an aspiring pride direct them to the meanest and most unworthy purposes. It is a subject of regret, that Philander, with almost every other amiable quality, does not possess a manly firmness in the government of his own household; and that Rosetta, with so many shining accomplishments, should be destitute of that soft, gentle, humane, and charitable disposition, which so peculiarly endears to us the female sex!

SHANESBOROUGH.

Reconnoitring-Hill,

Feb. 23, 1812.